

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 113017

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS 3

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

MY GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE GRAVE AND
DANGEROUS SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ILLEGAL AND
UNPROVOKED SEIZURE BY CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES OF A
UNITED STATES MERCHANT VESSEL, THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ, IN
INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE GULF OF SIAM.

THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ, AN UNARMED COMMERCIAL VESSEL OWNED
BY THE SEA-LAND CORPORATION OF MENLO PARK, NEW JERSEY,
WAS FIRED UPON AND HALTED BY CAMBODIAN GUNBOATS AND
FORCIBLY BOARDED AT 9:16 P.M. (EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)
ON MAY 12. THE BOARDING TOOK PLACE AT 09 DEGREES,
48 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE, 102 DEGREES, 53 MINUTES
EAST LONGITUDE. THE VESSEL HAS A CREW OF ABOUT 40,

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ALL OF WHOM ARE UNITED STATES CITIZENS. AT THE TIME

OF SEIZURE, THE S.S. MAYAGUEZ WAS ENROUTE FROM HONG KONG TO THAILAND AND WAS SOME 52 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE CAMBODIAN COAST. IT WAS SOME SEVEN NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE ISLANDS OF POULO WAI WHICH, MY GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS, ARE CLAIMED BY BOTH CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE VESSEL WAS ON THE HIGH SEAS, IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LANES COMMONLY USED BY SHIPS CALLING AT THE VARIOUS PORTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. EVEN IF, IN THE VIEW OF OTHERS, THE SHIP WERE CONSIDERED TO BE WITHIN CAMBODIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, IT WOULD CLEARLY HAVE

BE225WJL225VYYZZK225J225225Z225JJWVWZ225XW225J225225ZW225ZZ225YJW225L225J225Z225Y225ZZYJ225225225WJJ225225225225555

Message Attributes

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